

0775/000060 (BASELL-2)

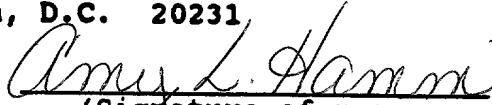
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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WOLFGANG ROHDE ET AL :  
SERIAL NO: (To be assigned) : ART UNIT:  
FILED: -HEREWITH- : EXAMINER:  
FOR: "PRODUCTION OF HOLLOW :  
PLASTIC ARTICLES" :

.....  
Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the determination of the filing fee and any action  
on the merits of the accompanying new patent application, kindly  
amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Attached please find a separate version of amended claims  
4-7, 9-12 and 13, followed by a 'marked-up version.'

0775/000060  
(Basell-2)  
CLEAN COPY CLAIMS

4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the welding of the thermoformed half-shells takes place using the heat of thermoforming.

5. A process as claimed in claim 1, which proceeds without any additional heating steps or cooling steps.

6. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, prior to the cutting process, the tubular plastic parison is extended perpendicularly to the direction of extrusion, with the aid of a spreading device.

7. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cutting of the plastic parison takes place prior to separation from the die, i.e. straight away during the extrusion process or immediately following the same.

9. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plastic parison has at least one layer made from polymeric material, preferably selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyamide, polyketone, polyester, and mixtures of these.

10. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structure of the plastic parison has two or more layers, encompassing preferably base layer, regrind layer, adhesion-promoter layer, and/or barrier layer.

11. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structure of the plastic parison has two or more layers, encompassing, from the outside to the inside:

- a layer made from HDPE with a thickness of from 5 to 30%,
- a regrind layer with a thickness of from 10 to 82%,
- an adhesion-promoter layer with a thickness of from 1 to 5%,
- a barrier layer with a thickness of from 1 to 10%,
- an adhesion-promoter layer with a thickness of from 1 to 5%, and
- a layer made from HDPE with a thickness of from 10 to 40%, based in each case on the total thickness of the container wall.

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**CLEAN COPY CLAIMS cont..**

12. A hollow plastic article which can be produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

13. The use of a hollow plastic article obtainable by the process as claimed in claim 1, as a plastic fuel tank in motor vehicles, as a gasoline canister, a plastic tank for storage or transport of heating oil, diesel, or the like, a transport container on a utility vehicle, for example for crop sprays, a solvent container, a plastic bottle, or the like.

R E M A R K S

Claims 4-7, 9-12 and 13 have been amended to refer to only one preceding claim. Each of the dependent claims, as amended, now depends on only one preceding claim. Therefore no additional fee is required for multiple dependency.

Prompt, favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

By Richard M. Beck  
Richard M. Beck, Registered #22,580  
P.O. Box 2207  
Wilmington, Delaware 19899  
(302) 888-6235  
Attorney for Applicants

RMB/alh  
(9086\*172)

'MARKED-UP VERSION'

-- 4. A process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the welding of the thermoformed half-shells takes place using the heat of thermoforming.

5. A process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, which proceeds without any additional heating steps or cooling steps.

6. A process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein, prior to the cutting process, the tubular plastic parison is extended perpendicularly to the direction of extrusion, with the aid of a spreading device.

7. A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the cutting of the plastic parison takes place prior to separation from the die, i.e. straight away during the extrusion process or immediately following the same.

9. A process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the plastic parison has at least one layer made from polymeric material, preferably selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyamide, polyketone, polyester, and mixtures of these.

10. A process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the structure of the plastic parison has two or more layers, encompassing preferably base layer, regrind layer, adhesion-promoter layer, and/or barrier layer.

11. A process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the structure of the plastic parison has two or more layers, encompassing, from the outside to the inside:

- a layer made from HDPE with a thickness of from 5 to 30%,
- a regrind layer with a thickness of from 10 to 82%,
- an adhesion-promoter layer with a thickness of from 1 to 5%,
- a barrier layer with a thickness of from 1 to 10%,
- an adhesion-promoter layer with a thickness of from 1 to 5%, and
- a layer made from HDPE with a thickness of from 10 to 40%, based in each case on the total thickness of the container wall.

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**'MARKED-UP VERSION'**  
**cont...**

-- 12. A hollow plastic article which can be produced by the process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 11] claim 1.

13. The use of a hollow plastic article obtainable by the process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 11] claim 1, as a plastic fuel tank in motor vehicles, as a gasoline canister, a plastic tank for storage or transport of heating oil, diesel, or the like, a transport container on a utility vehicle, for example for crop sprays, a solvent container, a plastic bottle, or the like. --